

Message Text

SECRET

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 257077

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, IS

SUBJECT: YOUR RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 4204

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

1. BEFORE YOU RETURN TO WASHINGTON, YOU SHOULD IF AT ALL
POSSIBLE SEE ASAD AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. YOU SHOULD, UNLESS IN YOUR JUDGMENT IT WOULD BE IN-
APPROPRIATE, REFER TO YOUR RECENT DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL
SHIHABI AND SAY THAT I AM CONCERNED TO PREVENT WE AND
SYRIA FROM DRIFTING APART. I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS NO FAILURE OF COMMUNICA-
TION BETWEEN US AND THAT PRESIDENT ASAD HAS NO DOUBTS ABOUT
OUR COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT.

B. I AM THEREFORE CALLING YOU BACK TO WASHINGTON SO THAT
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YOU CAN CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT ON MY BEHALF AND THAT OF THE

PRESIDENT OUR FULL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND OUR BEST JUDGMENT ABOUT WHAT IS NECESSARY IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. IF THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO SEND GENERAL SHIHABI WITH WHOM YOU HAVE HAD SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE EVEN BETTER.

C. IN EITHER EVENT, I HOPE THE PRESIDENT WILL CONVEY TO ME HIS IDEAS IN DETAIL ABOUT HOW THE SITUATION SHOULD NOW EVOLVE. ONE THING IS VERY CLEAR TO ME -- THAT NOTHING WOULD COME FROM RENEWED HOSTILITIES, WHICH WE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO OPPOSE STRENUOUSLY AND WHICH WOULD ONLY STRENGTHEN THOSE WHO OPPOSE ANY PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT.

D. PICKING UP YOUR DIALOGUE ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION, YOU SHOULD SEEK HIS CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. ALTHOUGH THIS POINT IS DIFFICULT TO HANDLE AND WE WANT TO DEAL WITH IT IN A WAY THAT SUGGESTS OUR DESIRE TO COOPERATE RATHER THAN TO ACCUSE, YOU SHOULD ASK ASAD WHETHER HE BELIEVES THERE IS ANYTHING THAT GOVERNMENTS OUTSIDE LEBANON MIGHT DO TO CUT DOWN THE FLOW OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION TO THE COMBATANT FACTIONS IN LEBANON IN SUCH A WAY AS TO HAVE A GENUINE DAMPENING EFFECT ON THE FIGHTING. IF THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT PREJUDICING THE BASIS FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATION ON A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, IT COULD PROVIDE THE BREAK IN THE FIGHTING NEEDED TO CONDUCT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE NO FIXED IDEAS ON THIS POINT BUT SIMPLY WISH TO HAVE ASAD'S VIEWS ON IT. YOU MIGHT ALSO MENTION THAT WE HAVE SEEN RECENT REPORTS THAT PLO UNITS AND SAIQA HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE MOST RECENT FIGHTING AND ASK HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WHETHER THE BASE FOR THE FIGHTING HAS WIDENED.

E. AGAIN PRESENTING THE IDEA IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT POINT A FINGER OF ACCUSATION, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE HAVE HAD REPORTS THAT MILITARY ACTIVITY INTO THE GOLAN BUFFER ZONE HAS INCREASED IN RECENT WEEKS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ASAD'S VIEW OF THE FACTS AND PARTICULARLY HIS VIEW ON WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE EROSION OF OBSERVANCE

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OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. WE ARE SIMPLY ASKING ASAD FOR HIS VIEW OF THE SITUATION. WE WILL BE ASKING THE SAME QUESTION OF THE ISRAELIS.

F. YOU SHOULD CALL HIS ATTENTION IN THE APPROPRIATE CONTEXT TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED IN OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE

ON ALL FRONTS AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST MUST INVOLVE ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST.
YOU SHOULD ASSURE HIM THAT THIS REMAINS OUR POSITION
AND THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING WAYS OF MOVING FORWARD.

2. PLEASE CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT MY WARM PERSONAL
REGARDS. KISSINGER

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